Mumbai are expected to be published during 1997.

(b) and (c) The contract of the earlier contractor who failed to print the directories as per schedule has been terminated. Fresh tenders have been called for and offers received are under evaluation.

Reimbursement of the Amount under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme to Maharashtra

2025. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal from the Maharashtra Government for reimbursement of the amount under Voluntary Retirement Scheme under the Renewal Fund for Textile workers; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra has requested for assistance of Rs. 74.83 crores from the National Renewal Fund for payment of gratuity and compensation under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme to the staff of the Maharashtra State Textile Corporation Ltd. and the Textile Corporation of Marathwada Ltd. However, assistance from the National Renewal Fund has been provided for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Central Public Sector Undertakings only.

Telephone Exchange at Fatehpur Billoon, Faridabad, Haryana

2026. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Telecommunications is in occupation of ground floor premises for telephone exchange at Fatehpur Billoon; District Faridabad, Haryana belonging to a private owner;

(b) if so, whether the lease agreement between the DoT and the owner of the building expired on 14.2.1993;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the owner of the building has been demanding its vacation by DoT for his own use; and

(d) if so, the steps Government have taken to vacate the said premises for handing over the same to its right owner?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Efforts are being made to procure suitable building premises for shifting the telephone exchange to another premises. It is proposed to vacate the said premises thereafter and handover the same to the owner.

Underground Lining of Telephone Cables

2027. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of automatic telephone exchanges in the country and in how many of them faults have been reported since their establishment during the last three years;

(b) whether one of the major faults in the working of the telephones has been lack of underground lines; and

(c) if so, by when the telephone lines proposed to be made underground to avoid faults, particularly during the rainy season?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Number of Automatic telephone exchanges in the country as on 30.9.96 are 21328. In all the telephone exchanges occasional faults always come and these are attended promptly.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Demand of Telephone Exchange for Panagarh/Bud Bud

2028. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the demand from the industrial and coal-belt of Asansol-Durgapur for setting up a Integrated Telephone Exchange System covering from Panagarh/Bud Bud to Barakar/Chittaranjan under local dial system;